

SITUATION REPORT NO. 40
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: May 14, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North has dropped below flood stage at two locations, Halstad, MN, and Wahpeton, and should soon recede to flood stage levels in Fargo and Grand Forks. The National Weather Service reported that the river at Fargo was at 20.73 feet May 14, dropping a 1.31-foot drop during the past 24 hours. The river crested at 39.5 feet on April 18; flood stage is 17 feet. At Grand Forks, the river level was at 34.5 feet, a 1.21-foot drop during the past 24 hours. The river had crested at 54.2 feet on April 22; flood stage is 28 feet. At Drayton, the river measured 40.64 feet, a 0.30-foot drop during the past 23 hours. The river crested at Drayton at 45.55 feet on April 25; flood stage is 32 feet. The river at Pembina has dropped to 50.30 feet, a 0.48-foot drop during the past 24 hours. The river crested at 54.94 feet on April 26; flood stage is 42 feet.

Devils Lake flood waters have isolated 12 families living on Grahams Island. The access road, which is approximately 1,440 feet in elevation, is inundated, forcing the closure of Grahams Island State Park. The lake was at 1,440.95 feet MSL on May 14.

The Small Business Administration estimates that nearly 5,200 businesses have been destroyed, damaged or affected by the winter storms or floods.

As of May 12, approximately 3,000 Grand Forks electrical customers and 9,200 natural gas customers were without service.

The N.D. Department of Public Instruction reports that only one third of the nearly 9,000 public school and 1,000 private school students have re-enrolled in classes.

During this past weekend, wave action from a water-filled slough eroded the inslope of N.D. Highway 200 near Hurdsfield, leaving a three- to four-foot vertical drop. The inslope is now within one foot of the pavement.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: American Red Cross (ARC) workers and volunteers to date have addressed 7,396 emergency assistance cases, 6,130 of which have been closed with financial assistance and 369 with services. ARC Mental Health workers have made 8,817 contacts and Health Services has conducted 1,246 assessments.

Staff for Emergency Support Function for mass care report that on May 12 eight shelters housed 121 emergency workers and 764 persons displaced by flooding. To date, more than 6,133 evacuees and 779 emergency workers have stayed at shelters.

The Salvation Army coordinated a massive clean-up effort in Grand Forks on May 10. Approximately 250 volunteers cleaned more than 100 homes. "Operation We Care" relief and recovery efforts have included coordinating more than 100 volunteers daily to help clean homes and distribute cleaning supplies in Grand Forks. Five mobile feeding units are serving meals to Grand Forks and East Grand Forks residents.

An Antler, OK, resident has donated more than 3,000 fence posts, valued at \$15,000, to help North Dakota cattlemen who lost fencing during the winter blizzards and spring flooding. Farmers and ranchers had until noon today to register with the Agriculture Disaster Response Center (ADRC) for a drawing for the fence posts.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: James Lee Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has extended the eligibility period until May 17 for 100 percent reimbursement of debris removal and emergency protective measures. The President last month had authorized full reimbursement retroactive to April 7. FEMA is also paying the costs of direct assistance provided by federal agencies.

Governor Schafer and Mr. Witt addressed the North Dakota Mitigation Recovery Meeting held May 14. Approximately 70 state and federal officials discussed the state's disaster recovery efforts and future mitigation plans, including floodplain management.

Nearly 200 outreach workers are providing crisis counseling to North Dakota disaster victims. The N.D. Department of Human Services (DHS) received a \$712,000 grant from FEMA to administer the crisis counseling program. Counselors are helping residents cope with the stresses created by livestock losses, weather-related delays for planting, and flood-related losses. Counselors are based at the DHS' regional offices, but work in the field with disaster victims. Six counselors will stay with evacuees housed at the University of North Dakota.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) is working to repair and open flood-damaged roads. I-29 from Joliet to the Canadian border has been reopened to light

traffic; trucks are being detoured from N.D. Highway 5 to N.D. Highway 32. The N.D. DOT plans to hire a contractor to raise an inundated N.D. Highway 18 near the South Dakota line. In Devils Lake, the N.D. DOT will soon hold an emergency bid letting for grade raises to N.D. Highways 19 and 20 and U.S. Highway 281. In Valley City, a temporary grade raise is under construction on I-94 near Hobart Lake, where water is flowing over the interstate. This grade raise will soon open for eastbound traffic, while westbound traffic will continue to be detoured onto Barnes County Road 10, between mile markers 283 and 288. A contractor is elevating N.D. Highway 56 south of Kulm and south of Gackle. In addition, N.D. DOT officials are developing plans to raise N.D. Highway 200 near Hurdsville above a flooded slough. Road crews are also placing erosion protection on sections of N.D. Highway 36.

With water production in progress at Grand Forks' city water treatment plant, four Army Reserve water purification units were scheduled to depart May 14. N.D. National Guard purification units are on standby if assistance is needed. In the city of Walhalla, the National Guard has installed 3,000 feet of water hose until the city can tap into a rural water system later this summer. The city experienced a water main break in late April. Missions recently conducted by the National Guard include a reconnaissance mission on May 12 for the U.S. Coast Guard, whose staff spotted more than 30 hazardous materials barrels in the Red River. The National Guard had one mission pending, 15 in progress and had 288 completed as of May 13. Personnel on State Active Duty included 47 Air and 127 Army Guard members.

The "one-stop" shop for transient merchant's and contractor's licenses will close May 16 in Grand Forks. After May 16, the Bismarck offices of the N.D. Attorney General will issue transient licenses and the N.D. Secretary of State will address contractor licenses.

As of May 12, Job Service North Dakota had received more than 4,464 Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) claims and had paid \$407,799 in benefits. In addition to DUA, Job Service is now also administering the Disaster Assistance Program (DAP). This program is designed to create temporary jobs for those who are unemployed as a result of the disaster. DAP also assists in the cleanup, repair and reconstruction of flood-damaged public and non-profit property.

The State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) staff has received 90 notice of interest applications for participation in the Public Assistance Program. Applicants include 19 counties, 48 cities, nine electrical cooperatives, four tribal governments, three state agencies, two park districts, one water district, three universities and one public school district.

The DFO Processing Center has received 248 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs). Of those, 84 have been obligated. Public Assistance staff has completed DSRs for 43 applicants to date. Because western county inspections have been completed, the Minot Satellite Office has been temporarily closed until next week. The Dickinson Satellite Office has been downsized to include members of the bridge inspection teams. The 12 inspectors from the other teams are working at the DFO in Bismarck to complete DSRs for Morton, Hettinger and Grant Counties and the city of Dickinson. The electrical inspection teams have completed inspections for six electrical cooperatives.

The N.D. Department of Health is assessing the public health impact of mold growth resulting from the recent flood. The agency reports that the number of public building

sanitarians assigned to Grand Forks will be increased from two to four to address the large volume of inspections of flood-damaged buildings. The Department of Health has also distributed to date 18,400 supplemental kits in the Grand Forks area. The agency is organizing 25,000 kits and has up to 12 people working full time on the project.

Four North Dakota Civil Air Patrol air crews plan to conduct a search mission on May 15 in the northern Red River Valley for a missing Grafton-area couple. The couple has been missing since mid-April.

To date, more than 127,397 checks totaling \$17.5 million have been issued by the Disaster Housing Programs. More than 200 housing inspectors are conducting home inspections. The Small Business Administration has approved \$8 million in loans.

The Individual and Family Grant Program has established a toll-free, state help line for applicants, (800) 809-2495. Staff for the program has received 12,591 applications and has approved \$269,172 in claims.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>". The N.D. League of Cities offers donation information on its web page. The address is: "<http://www.ndlc.org>". The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Douglas C. Friez, State Director